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EDUCATION WEEK

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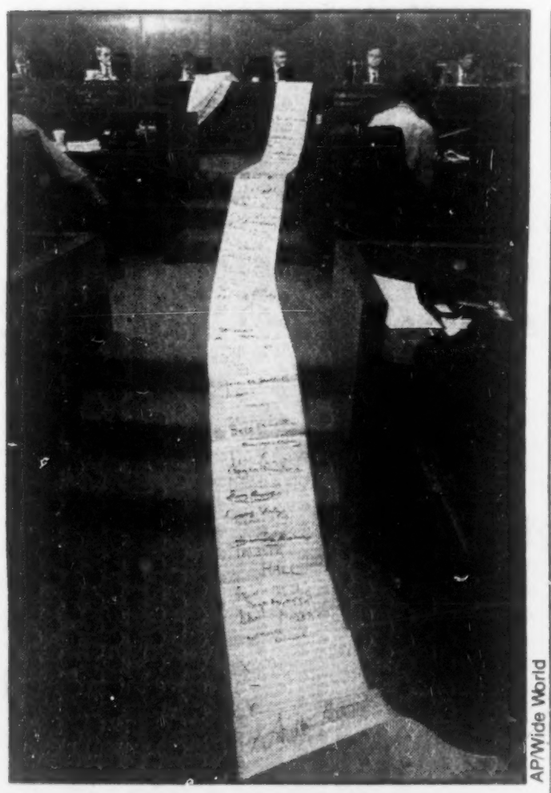

AP/Wide World

A petition protesting education cuts was presented to the Florida cabinet last month. Nationwide, states face a new round of budget cuts and tax increases to make up for drooping revenues.

States' New Deficits Bode Ill for Schools, Experts Predicting

By Lonnie Harp

State education programs, which were largely spared from significant spending cuts in this year's austere budgets, can no longer be guaranteed immunity when the legislatures begin meeting again, fiscal experts warned last week.

The dire predictions for education funding came amid evidence in recent weeks that, after a brief rebound over the summer, the nation's economy was once again headed sharply downward, taking with it the outlook for state revenues.

As a result, many states now are facing a new round of spending cuts and tax increases that could equal or exceed the politically wrenching budget confrontations they went through just a few months ago.

Early signs of fiscal troubles have sprouted in a number of states where tax collections for the current fiscal year have fallen

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Why Are Children Turning to Guns?

By Millicent Lawton

Not so many years ago, an elementary- or middle-school student eager to impress a classmate might have stuffed a live frog into the pocket of his windbreaker.

Today, the object of choice might instead turn out to be a .32-caliber revolver.

Or a dispute among teenagers, brought on by a shoulder bumped in the hallway or a remark about a girlfriend, might have ended in a bloody nose, not a pool of blood.

Whether in Washington, Milwaukee, Houston, or Los Angeles, in school or at home, thousands of children, many of whom have had no history of troublemaking, are packing an arsenal of weapons.

"Kids are dangerous; they always have been," said Lawrence Sherman, a criminology professor at the University of Maryland. "And now that we've got guns . . ."

"Unless we control guns in the streets," he added, "we're going to have to start building our schools like castles."

The fact that more children and teenagers are toting guns and ammunition is relatively easy to document through a flood of statistical and anecdotal evidence.

Much harder to nail down with any certainty are the reasons that children feel compelled to carry and use guns.

The prevalence of guns in relation to gang activity and drug trafficking has attracted much attention and study over the past several years. The same is true of the troubling questions raised by accidental shootings and suicides.

But what remains much more elusive, experts say, is why a youngster—from the suburbs or an inner city—who may not be directly involved in gangs or drugs would have access to, carry, and even intentionally use a firearm.

While a youth's reasons for having or using a gun may be as unique and complicated as the youngster himself, experts tick off

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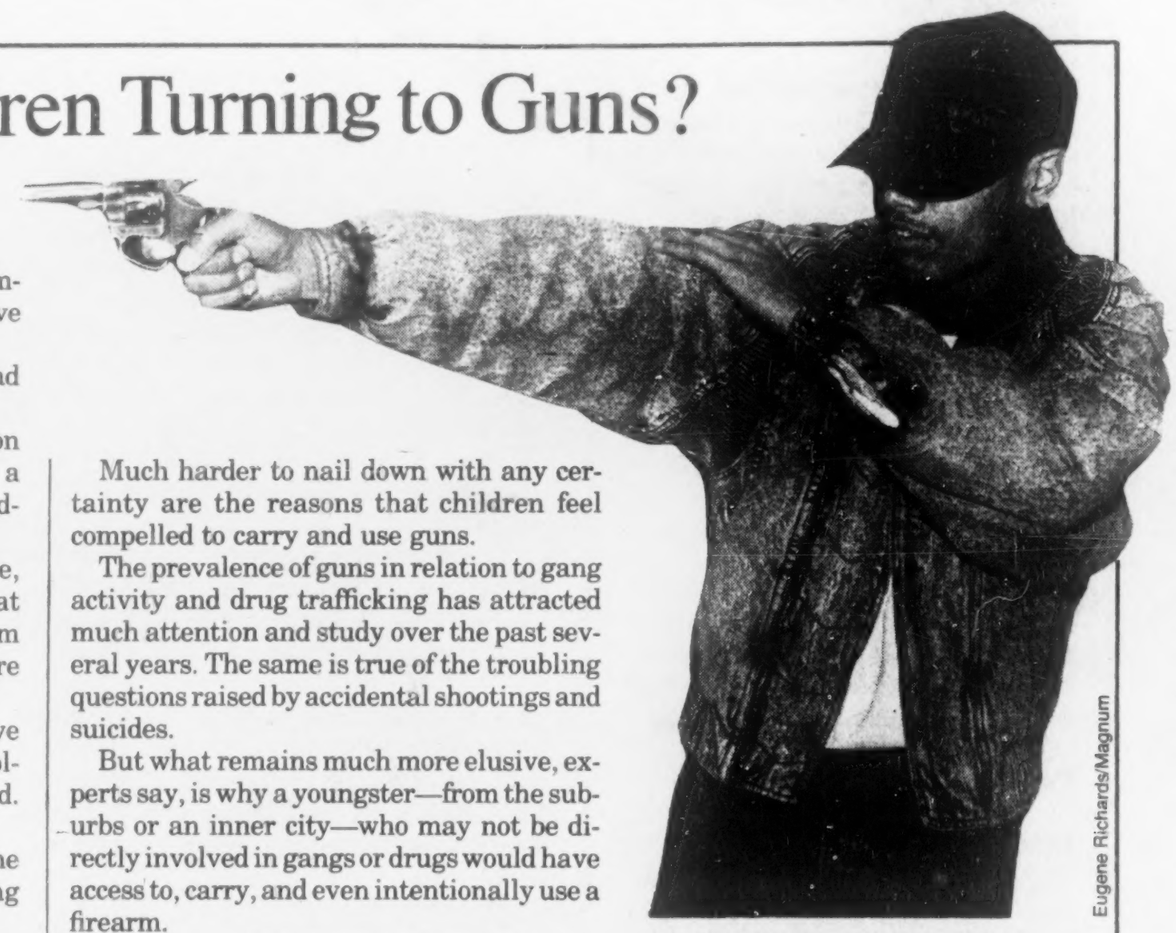

Eugene Richards/Magnum

Nearly 1 out of 20 students in grades 9 to 12 carries a firearm at least once a month, a federal survey has reported.

'Strategy Session' on Goals Draws Diverse Array of Players, Reactions

By Lynn Olson

DES MOINES—More than 700 people from 43 states and the District of Columbia gathered here last week for what was described as a "strategy session" to help achieve the six national education goals.

But the National Education Goals Forum attracted widely varying levels of state involvement, with some participants expressing uncertainty about the purpose of the two-day event.

The nation's governors had been invited to attend the forum and to send teams of "delegates" from their states to share ideas and experiences on working toward the goals.

Six governors actually attended the forum. And while some state chief executives sent more than 25 people—including legislators, chief state school officers, educators, and leading business executives—others sent few or none.

Moreover, while many attendees found the exchange of information helpful, some wondered what they were supposed to accomplish here, or what they were expected to do once they got back home.

"The first question I got asked was, 'Why are we here?' " said Dick Vander Woude, a government-relations consultant for the National Education Association, which held a briefing for union members who attended the conference.

"I think they were hoping to start some dialogue," Mr. Vander Woude added, referring to the forum's organizers. "And if that happens in a few places, then I guess it will be worthwhile."

There was no strategy document or plan that states were expected to have developed

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House Panel's Vote Marks a Sea Change On the Choice Issue

By Julie A. Miller

WASHINGTON—The House Education and Labor Committee's approval last month of compromise legislation that would allow school districts to use federal funds for private-school choice programs heralds a sea change on Capitol Hill, observers say.

For the first time in recent memory, they point out, it is conceivable to think that the Congress might even take the next step and itself agree to fund choice plans that help parents send their children to private schools.

While the legislation approved last month, HR 3320, would probably not directly underwrite such programs, it would provide grants to states and school districts to develop and implement education-reform strategies. Committees including educators, students, parents, and business leaders would choose which activities they wanted to pursue.

But among those possibilities are "choice programs consistent with state law and state constitutions which permit parents to

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Foreign-Language Instruction Resurfacing in Elementary Schools

By Debra Viadero

BLADENSBURG, MD.—All eyes in François Lareuse's kindergarten class at Rogers Heights Elementary School here were glued to the little girl at the front of the room.

Pretending to be Goldilocks in the cottage of the three bears, the child picked up a large bucket and sampled some imaginary porridge from it.

"C'est chaud," she said as she fanned her mouth to cool it from the heat of the imaginary porridge.

Picking up the second bucket, she pretended to shiver, and said, *"C'est froid."* Then, eating from the tiniest bucket, the girl rubbed her belly and pronounced, *"Yum, yum. C'est bon."*

The meaning of her French words was abundantly clear to her young classmates, although most of them have probably never seen Paris. They giggled at her antics and prodded her on when she hesitated.

That is because students at this school in suburban Washington are enrolled in a French-immersion program and hear nothing but that language in their classes from the day they enter kindergarten until their 6th-grade graduation.

According to foreign-language educators, programs like this one are on the cutting edge of an emerging national trend. Elementary-school foreign-language programs, which all but disappeared from public schools nearly two decades ago, are making a cautious comeback.

"Americans are finally realizing again that it's a small world, and in order to compete successfully, we really need to look at languages," said Ellen Boudreaux, a past president of Advocates for Early Language Learning, a national group dedicated to that cause.

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Also in the news

17 **Dueling Reform Plans**
Educators, legislators, and the Governor are all vying to rework Massachusetts' fiscally strained school system.

IN SUMMARY

Dade Trade-Off
Dade County, Fla., teachers are set to vote on whether to accept a new contract that gives them greater control over discipline and lesson plans but no salary hikes.
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Seattle Kills Spending Curb
The Seattle City Council has repealed a measure passed by voters two years ago that blocked the city from spending sales-tax revenues on public schools until the school board ended forced busing. **Page 4.**

Give It Up
The Los Angeles Unified School District has been so liberal in its salary policies that employees should accept pay cuts this year, a fact-finding report urges.
Page 5.

Back on the Bus
Boston's bitter, five-week-old strike by school-bus drivers ended last week with an agreement that left city and union officials both claiming victory.
Page 5.

Breaking Training
Athletic coaches, the most crucial factor in determining how young people experience organized sports, often lack the formal training that can make the involvement beneficial, a new report asserts. **Page 10.**

No Time for Art
The amount of time devoted to arts education in the nation's schools is "totally inadequate," according to the first comprehensive national survey of school fine-arts programs in nearly two decades. **Page 11.**

Budget Agreement
House and Senate conferees last week agreed to a $204.9-billion social-services spending bill for fiscal 1992 that includes approximately $31.5 billion for the Education Department. **Page 22.**

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ACROSS THE NATION

NATIONAL

Teaching Standards Panel Names Five to Board of Directors

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards has elected five new members to serve three-year terms on its board of directors.

The new members are Roseann K. Bentley, the immediate past president of the National Association of State Boards of Education; Linda Darling-Hammond, a professor of curriculum and teaching at Teachers College, Columbia University; Lois Distad, a reading teacher at Bar Nunn (Wyo.) Elementary School; Barbara J. Firestone, a teacher at McCollom Elementary School in Wichita, Kan.; and Sharon C. Mahoe, president of the Hawaii State Teachers Association.

The 63-member national board is developing a national certification system to identify accomplished teachers. It expects to launch is first assessments in 1993.

■ **A special committee of the National Collegiate Athletic Association has recommended major changes in the process by which colleges and universities are investigated for alleged recruiting and scholarship infractions.**

The panel, led by former U.S. Solicitor General Rex Lee, called for the use of hearing officers to determine facts and recommend penalties to the N.C.A.A.'s committee on infractions. The committee also recommended opening investigation hearings to the public.

The panel's major recommendations must be approved by the membership of the N.C.A.A. at its meeting in January.

■ **A nationwide chain of photocopying stores has agreed to stop producing and selling anthologies of published materials without copyright permission.**

The agreement, announced Oct. 17, brings to an end a long-running legal dispute between Kinko's Graphics Corporation and eight publishers joined by the Association of American Publishers.

A federal court in March upheld the publishers' contention that Kinko's had infringed on their copyright by photocopying unauthorized excerpts from published materials and compiling them into course anthologies to be sold to college and university students.

Kinko's also agreed not to appeal the ruling and to pay the publishers' nearly $1.9 million in damages and legal fees. ■

STATES

Virginia Board Weighs Governor's Proposal for Year-Round Schools

Gov. L. Douglas Wilder of Virginia has proposed that the state's schools adopt a year-round school calendar by the year 2000.

Under the proposal, announced by the Governor at the state PTA convention late last month, students would attend school 200 days a year instead of the current 180. Estimates of how much it would cost to add the 20 days to the calendar run as high as $500 million.

Superintendent of Public Instruction Joseph A. Spagnolo Jr. and Education Secretary James W. Dyke Jr. defended the proposal before the state board of education last week.

The board took no formal action, however, and probably does not plan to do so, a board spokesman said.

Any state efforts at year-round schooling would probably be done on a pilot basis in 1993 under a "world-class education program" passed by the state board this year. Under the program, up to 15 schools or districts can apply for funding to pursue innovative ideas, one of which could be an extended school day or year, the spokesman said.

The effort depends on whether the General Assembly will approve funding during its next term beginning in January. ■

DISTRICTS

Federal Court Approves Overhaul Of Tampa-Area Desegregation Plan

A federal court has cleared the way for the Hillsborough County, Fla., school system, which includes Tampa, to dramatically change a school-desegregation plan the district adopted 20 years ago.

In a ruling issued last month, U.S. District Judge Elizabeth A. Kovachevich approved a plan to create more than $150 million in new magnet and middle schools and to bus thousands of children from the suburbs into the inner city to desegregate schools in the 125,000-student district.

When the plan is fully implemented in five to seven years, the number of students being bused for desegregation purposes will decrease from 17,000 to 10,000, and black students will be less burdened by busing, district officials said.

The plan faces two legal challenges, however, from lawyers for parents in a Tampa neighborhood called Town'N'Country.

A lawsuit filed in Hillsborough Circuit Court charges that the plan invades the privacy of the neighborhood's residents, while a petition filed with the Florida Department of Administration asserts that the plan is invalid because it was worked out behind closed doors by the district and local officials of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

■ **The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit has upheld a lower-court ruling that allows the Austin Independent School District to end busing at the elementary-school level.**

In 1987, the district moved to end elementary-school busing and to institute a neighborhood-school plan in an effort to relieve overcrowded classrooms and to create 16 priority schools with extra resources for disadvantaged students.

Civil-rights groups argued, however, that the changes instituted in 1987 would resegregate the district's schools.

Judge John Minor Wisdom of the appeals court held that the changes were constitu-

A Cornucopia of K Rations

Last winter's operation Desert Storm has turned into this fall's Thanksgiving harvest for schools, homeless shelters, and other organizations in need of aid.

During the Persian Gulf war, the Department of Defense planned for 60 days' worth of food for 500,000 hungry troops. The brevity of the conflict resulted in an unexpected but welcome benefit for civilians at home.

Finding themselves with more than $300 million in surplus food and sundries, defense officials decided to turn the leftovers into a peace dividend called Operation Desert Share.

Over the next several months, tons of canned vegetables and fruits, frozen meats, rice, cake mix, and toiletries will make their way from military supply ships to civilians in need through the General Services Administration, the federal agency charged with the daunting task of coordinating the effort.

As the supply ships dock, the food is inspected and sent to federal and state agencies, which then allocate the goods to nonprofit organizations. Ultimately, the camp cuisine finds its way to soup kitchens, church pantries, day-care centers, and drug- and alcohol-treatment centers nationwide.

Peter Steiner

Numerous schools are also the lucky recipients of approximately one-fourth of the soldiers' fare. Several states, including New Hampshire, Utah, Missouri, and Massachusetts, are participating.

Kathryn Gaddy, a spokesman for the G.S.A., calls Operation Desert Share "the only model of its kind" and is at once proud of and amazed at the logistics of distributing the equivalent of approximately 70 million meals.

She says that all of the recipients thus far have praised the quality and quantity of the food, although she does remember one comment from a student on discovering K rations on her cafeteria plate.

"She said she didn't like the green beans," Ms. Gaddy recalls, "although she liked everything else." —S.K.G.

tional because they did not intentionally segregate. He cautioned the district, however, to ensure that it equitably funds schools with large minority populations.

■ **Responding to an increase in school violence, the Houston Independent School District has approved a $1.5-million security plan** that will give campuses the options of using armed officers and instituting in-house suspension programs.

Under the plan, approved by the board last month, schools may also begin using hand-held metal detectors, two-way radios, fencing and roof-mounted lights, identification cards for students in high schools and middle schools, and "panic button" security systems in selected classrooms.

"There has been an increase in violence in the community and the schools," said Les Burton, the district's security director. "We've had some vehicles drive by and discharge firearms, and over the last three years, there has been an increase in weapons."

Under the plan, officers of the newly named H.I.S.D. Police Department will be authorized to wear guns and uniforms on high-school and middle-school campuses that request it.

■ **Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, the archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago, has acknowledged that the church "made mistakes" in its handling of cases involving priests accused of child sexual abuse.**

In an open letter to church members late last month, Cardinal Bernardin said he was appointing an advisory commission on the issue of child sexual abuse. The panel's first task will be to determine whether any current clergy assignments "might put people at risk."

The cardinal responded following news reports in the Chicago media last month about a parish priest in suburban Berwyn who was accused of making sexual advances toward a 20-year-old man. The priest had been accused in 1982 of exposing himself to several altar boys during a picnic and was under orders not to be alone with anyone under 21 years of age. The Berwyn police are also investigating the allegations of a 14-year-old girl who claimed that the priest touched her improperly.

The priest left the church in July and is in a treatment center, said Joy Clough, a spokesman for the archdiocese.

■ **A Garland, Tex., middle-school principal riled parents and advocacy groups last month when he banned the speaking of Spanish in the school to prevent Hispanic students from using the language to curse at teachers.**

Joe Brown, principal of O'Banion Middle School, instituted a policy subjecting students to suspension or even expulsion if they were caught using Spanish outside of language classrooms.

Twenty percent of the school's 981 students are Hispanic, but only two teachers there speak Spanish. Officials of the Garland Independent School District said students were using Spanish to curse at their teachers.

Mr. Brown later lifted the ban after parents and advocacy groups pressured the district.

■ **A Los Angeles-area high school has forfeited an important football game rather than play at its opponent's field where a drive-by shooting occurred early last month.**

Officials said it apparently was the first time in recent memory that an area high school had forfeited a game due to fear of violence.

Despite beefed-up security and the change of game time from night to daylight hours, Banning High School in Wilmington last week notified Dorsey High School in Los Angeles that it would forfeit the Nov. 1 varsity game because of safety concerns, said Willard Love, Dorsey's assistant principal.

Banning also forfeited its B team's Oct. 31 game against Dorsey High, said Richard Browning, a division administrator for the Los Angeles Unified School District.

The Banning and Dorsey varsity teams are ranked No. 1 and 2 in the city, respectively, Mr. Love said.

Both games would have been played at Jackie Robinson Stadium, adjacent to Dorsey High in Los Angeles's Crenshaw district—the scene last month of a gang-related drive-by shooting that injured a Dorsey student and another youth, Mr. Love said.

By forfeiting, Banning could face sanctions by the governing board of the Los Angeles City Section of the California Interscholastic Federation, Mr. Browning said.

■ **A coalition of businesses in Des Moines last month announced that it would limit the work hours of high-school-aged workers to ensure that they have more time for study.**

The Coalition of Student Employers agreed that its student employees generally will not work past 10 P.M. on school nights or more than 20 hours a week. Exceptions will be made for students supporting themselves or their families. Employers who allow students to work longer hours are being encouraged to talk with school officials and parents.

A study conducted last year by a Des Moines high-school principal found that 26 percent of the juniors and seniors at his high school worked at least one school night a week past 10 P.M. and that 3.5 percent worked 40-hour weeks. ■

UPDATE

■ **The Ohio Department of Education has accepted a revised and reduced version of the Cleveland public-school budget,** thus avoiding a court battle with the district over finances. *(See Education Week, Oct. 23, 1991.)*

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Ted Sanders and the Cleveland school board late last month agreed on a district budget for fiscal year 1992 that includes $11.6 million in spending cuts.

The superintendent, who must review the district's budget under the terms of a federal desegregation order, had threatened to go to court to force the district to adopt a "fiscally responsible" budget.

A spokesman for the state education department said that Cleveland still faces some financial problems in the 1993 fiscal year, but that district officials adopted a sound budget for this year after meeting privately with state officials.

■ **A circuit-court judge in Fairfax County, Va., has ruled that the Fairfax school board had the authority to freeze teachers' salaries to balance its budget.**

The Fairfax Education Association sued the board last spring, after board members decided not to give teachers the 3.8 percent longevity increases specified in their contract. The union unsuccessfully argued that by doing so the board was violating its own policy, state law, and the teachers' constitutional due-process rights. *(See Education Week, June 5, 1991.)*

Union leaders said they do not plan to appeal the decision.

■ **Delmis Donta, the eastern Kentucky superintendent who faced dismissal by the state following a misdemeanor misconduct charge, shocked state officials last week by asking for a continuance of his removal hearing and then resigning his post after a postponement was granted.** *(See Education Week, Oct. 2, 1991.)*

About 90 witnesses were on hand in the state capital of Frankfort to testify at Mr. Donta's hearing, and officials said reporters from across the state had almost filled a local hotel in anticipation of a marathon proceeding.

Instead, after asking for a delay—the first on the state's charges—Mr. Donta offered a 30-minute speech recalling his career and announced his resignation.

Last week, the Boyd County school board was awaiting the return of a board member to officially accept Mr. Donta's resignation. The state had already suspended the superintendent and appointed an interim head of the 4,100-student district.

Also last week, Mr. Donta was found guilty on the misconduct charge after he failed to appear for his fifth court date. A family spokesman said Mr. Donta was being treated as an outpatient at an Ohio hospital at the time of the trial.

He will be sentenced later on the misdemeanor, which carries a maximum penalty of 90 days in jail and a $250 fine.

■ **By selling a plot of land for $3 million, the financially troubled Mobile County, Ala., school system has postponed the shutdown of its schools that officials had predicted would occur last week.**

The state's largest district has been negotiating for two years to sell the 306-acre vacant lot located in an industrial area, said Gene Tysowsky, a district spokesman. The land was never meant to be a school site, officials said.

But proceeds from the sale, expected to close this month, will only carry the district through Dec. 1, and officials are still searching for a longer-term solution. State legislators, for example, are considering several tax proposals.

The school district was hit particularly hard by Gov. Guy Hunt's declaration of an across-the-board, $145-million cut in the state's education budget that went into effect Oct. 1. *(See Education Week, Oct. 16, 1991.)*

Four other districts—Chambers County, Marion County, Walker County, and Wilcox County—have also announced that budget woes may force them to shut their doors sometime before the end of the school year, said Harry Toothaker, a state department of education spokesman. ■

DIMENSIONS

Responsible Teenagers

Teenagers are no less aware of the nation's problems than are adults, nor are they less eager to make sacrifices to solve them, a new national survey by the American Board of Family Practice suggests.

The survey was conducted for the board, a medical specialty group that represents family physicians, by J.C. Pollock Associates of Princeton, N.J.

Last spring, the researchers surveyed nationally representative samples of 1,050 adults and 400 youths ages 13 to 17.

They found that, like adults, large numbers of teenagers were worried about a deteriorating environment (78 percent), poor education (75 percent), crime (75 percent), AIDS (74 percent), and a possible economic depression (70 percent).

Responding to economic pressures on their parents, many teenagers said they would be willing to buy less recorded music (78 percent), get a part-time job (77 percent), do household work that usually is paid for (75 percent), buy fewer clothes (66 percent), and return some allowance or spending money (63 percent).

Unlike adults, the teenagers surveyed strongly agreed that in a two-parent home only one parent should work (84 percent versus 46 percent). Regarding divorce, 73 percent of the teenagers said children of divorce have more problems than their peers, but only 42 percent said that unhappy parents should stay together for the sake of their children.

Teenagers and adults also had similar views on the major problems facing youths today (see chart).

Biggest Problems Faced by Teenagers

Problem	As viewed by Teenagers	As viewed by Adults
Drinking alcohol and druken driving	79%	84%
Parental abuse	72%	67%
Suicide	71%	69%
Temptation to do drugs	66%	77%
Fear of pregnancy	64%	53%
Pressure to have sex	60%	62%

Source: American Board of Family Practice

Corrections

An article in the Oct. 16 issue on a conference between U.S and Mexican educators incorrectly quoted Betsy Brand, the U.S. Education Department's assistant secretary for vocational and adult education, on who would pay for an adult-literacy project in Mexico. According to Ms. Brand, several border states plan to contribute funds to the program.

An article in the Oct. 23 issue on efforts to create national education standards and assessments incorrectly characterized efforts by the National Science Teachers Association. The "Scope, Sequence, and Coordination of Secondary School Science" project is separate from the N.S.T.A. task force formed in June 1990 to oversee the development of national standards for the teaching of precollege science.

The identifications of two people photographed for a story on research into Chicago school reforms were inadvertently switched in the Oct. 30 issue. Pictured in the photograph on the left was Donald Moore, executive director of Designs for Change; Michael Katz, a historian at the University of Pennsylvania, was in the photo on the right.